

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7300**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1330

**DATE PREPARED:** Jan 14, 2002

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Independent Reassessment of Lake County.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Bob Sigalow

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9859

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**      **GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill replaces each reference to the State Board of Tax Commissioners in the Lake County independent appraiser law with the name of the appropriate successor agency. It provides procedures for payment of a claim of an independent appraiser.

The bill expands the direct contempt powers of the Tax Court with respect to a failure to provide information to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) or its contractor or to pay a bill of a contractor to cover a county or township official with information necessary or useful for the completion of a general or special reassessment.

This bill provides for the expiration of the provisions of law requiring the Department of Local Government Finance to conduct a general reassessment with an independent appraiser. It provides tort immunity to the independent appraiser. The bill also makes related changes.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** Under the proposal, the DLGF's contractor(s) would be indemnified against tort claims resulting from work performed on the independent reassessment project. Liability for some of the contractors' actions could fall to the state.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Under current law, Lake County is required to pay the cost of the independent reassessment. This bill stipulates that the contractor(s) may periodically submit partial bills, and it sets out the specific procedure to be used by the county in paying the bills. The bills would be paid from the county reassessment fund without appropriation. These provisions clarify procedure but do not further obligate the county.

Under current law, the DLGF or its contractor may seek an order from the Indiana Tax Court to compel the township assessor or the county assessor to produce information that has been requested, but not provided. This bill would also include the county auditor, county surveyor, county treasurer, a member of the county land value committee, and any county official who is involved in paying contractor claims as officials required to produce requested information.

The bill would also permit the DLGF or its contractor to seek an order from the Indiana Tax Court requiring payment of the contractor's bills. The failure of an official to comply with an order from the Tax Court constitutes direct contempt of the Tax Court.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** Under current law, the reassessment contractor will use land values prepared by the township assessors. This bill would allow the contractor to redetermine land values if the contractor finds that the values provided by the township assessor do not reflect the true value of land. The valuation used would have an impact on tax rates and the distribution of the property tax burden.

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Local Government Finance (State Tax Board); Indiana Tax Court.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Officials of Lake County and townships in Lake County.

**Information Sources:**